



Dear Representative,

This week, the House Energy and Commerce Committee is expected to mark up H.R. 6, the *Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act*, introduced by Rep. Cory Gardner (R-CO). The bill is a timely proposal that would expedite approval for the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to nations that are members of the World Trade Organization. As a matter of public policy, increasing domestic energy production and lifting the ban on energy exports would greatly benefit American consumers and the economy at large.

Furthermore, as has been shown in the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and Eastern Europe, the use of energy as a weapon by nations like Russia can also be harmful for America's national security interests. Opening markets and increasing energy supplies across the globe would help diversify the marketplace and serve as a long term policy solution to diminish the ability of nations like Russia to impose their will in the future.

As the Heritage Foundation has noted, it should not be up to the Department of Energy to determine what amount of natural gas to export is in the public interest. H.R. 6 would help fast-track the approval process for export applications for which notice has been published in the Federal Register prior to March 6, 2014. This is an important first step in removing DOE's regulatory stranglehold and allowing energy producers to capture the vast economic potential that exporting would provide.

There is widespread and growing support for lifting the ban on LNG exports. Just last month in a March 22nd Op-Ed, the *Washington Post* Editorial Board argued in favor of such a policy and touted the compelling economic case for lifting the ban.

This bill joins a solid line of other such measures that have been introduced in the 113th Congress. Legislative proposals that would also provide for strong economic growth, empower free markets, and advance opportunity include the *American Energy Renaissance Act* (H.R. 4286/S.2170) by Rep. Jim Bridenstine (R-OK) and Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) as well as the *EXPAND Act* (H.R. 3895) by Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC).

It is long past time to lift the ban on energy exports in order to strengthen our economy, promote free trade, and advance our national security interests. Heritage Action supports H.R. 6 and encourages Members to not only support this bill, but to support similar legislative efforts, such as H.R. 4286 and H.R. 3895, aimed at fostering economic growth and providing for sound free market solutions in the energy sector.